

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A component placement machine ~~with comprising:~~  
~~a frame; and with~~  
a transport device for transporting printed circuit boards in an X-direction[[],];  
~~which transport device comprises at least one transport beam that extends extending in~~  
the X-direction, ~~which whereby~~ the beam can be driven in the X-direction in a reciprocating  
movement[[],];  
~~characterized in that the transport device is provided with a clamping means~~  
~~mechanism connected to the transport beam for clamping in at least one lateral edge that~~  
~~extends extending in the X-direction of the printed circuit boards to be transported[[],]; and~~  
~~and in that the device is further provided with a supporting means mechanism~~  
connected to the frame for supporting two lateral edges on both sides of the printed circuit  
boards, ~~which whereby the clamping mechanism is means can be brought placed~~ into an  
active clamping position such that the clamping ~~mechanism is means are active during the~~  
movement of the transport beam in the positive X-direction and ~~can be brought is placed~~ in a  
~~rest position resting position during the returning return~~ of the transport beam in the negative  
X-direction, ~~such that while the clamping mechanism is at rest in which rest position of the~~  
~~clamping means the printed circuit boards are being supported by the supporting means~~  
~~mechanism.~~
2. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein the clamping means mechanism comprise comprises:~~  
a fixed jaw portion, which cooperates with an upper side of the printed circuit board;  
and

a moveable jaw portion, which is movable in a Z-direction toward to the fixed jaw portion to cooperate with a lower side of the printed circuit board and which is movable away from the fixed jaw portion to release the printed circuit board.

3. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 2, characterized in that wherein the fixed jaw portion comprises a number plurality of clamping elements which that extend in an X-direction; each clamping element positioned behind the other. one behind the other.

4. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 3, characterized In that wherein each of the plurality of clamping elements element comprises a leaf spring.

5. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 2, claim 2-  
4, characterized in that wherein the transport device comprises a bed of supporting pins, that are configured to move simultaneously with movable simultaneously with the movable jaw portion.

6. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein the supporting means mechanism comprises two ridges extending in the X-direction.

7. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein the distance between the ridges is adjustable.

8. (Currently amended) A method Method for transporting a printed circuit board board comprising the steps of: with respect to a frame by means of a transport beam in an X- direction

moving a printed circuit board by means of a transport beam, whereby at least one printed circuit board is moved by means of the transport beam from an initial position in a positive X-direction to a predetermined position[[],];

~~after which lowering the transport beam is lowered with respect to the printed circuit board in a negative Z-direction over a predetermined distance[[],];~~  
~~moving the transport beam is moved in the negative X-direction to the initial position;~~  
and

~~moving the transport beam is moved up again in the positive Z-direction over the predetermined distance whereby characterized in that the movement of the transport beam in the negative X-direction as well as the Z-direction is partly occurs simultaneously.~~

9. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a printed circuit board according to claim 8, wherein Method according to claim 8, characterized in that the movement of the transport beam in the negative X-direction is started begins as soon as the transport beam has been moved in the negative Z-direction over a safety distance but before the transport beam has been moved in the negative Z-direction over the predetermined distance.

10. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a printed circuit board according to claim 8, wherein Method according to claim 8, characterized in that the movement of the transport beam in the positive Z-direction is started begins before the transport beam is at the initial position in the X-direction but only and wherein only after the transport beam has reached the initial X-position is the transport beam will moved moved from a safety distance to the initial position in Z-direction.

11. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a printed circuit board according to claim 9, wherein Method according to one of the preceding claims 9 or 10, characterized in that the safety distance is adjustable.